

2005-06 HONOLULU CHARTER COMMISSION
CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL FORM

1. Provide a brief description of the purpose of the proposed charter amendment; include a description of the problem the proposal would address and how the proposal would address the problem:

Note the revisions since previous consideration: Several Commissioners had expressed concern with an earlier version's language that stated "giving highest priority to impacts on pedestrians, public transit, and bicyclists..." That phrase has been deleted.

Honolulu is blessed with fair temperatures year round and a beautiful environment. This amendment seeks to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit options for Honolulu residents.

Despite being an attractive place to be active outside, walking and bicycling on Oahu are dangerous. Dozens of pedestrians and bicyclists are killed annually on Oahu. For example, on January 16th, 2005, 86 year-old O`ahu resident Betty Tanaka Santiago was killed by a driver while crossing the street in a marked crosswalk. She was on her way to buy supplies for centerpieces for her church choir.

According to the National Center for Statistics & Analysis, Hawaii has the fourth highest pedestrian fatality rate in the U.S. — 2.65 deaths per 100,000 population. The national average is 1.67.

Honolulu also has a traffic problem, with many of the city's main thoroughfares clogged during rush hour times. For most, time stuck in traffic is time away from productive work or social time with family. Bicycle riding and walking are frequently viable alternatives to driving, but many people are too scared to participate.

We can do better in providing safe pedestrian and bicycle routes in Honolulu. Doing so would free up more space for social interaction, recreation, and commerce. Bicycle commuting rates in some European cities – where the climate is less favorable than Honolulu's – are as high as 30%.

2. If applicable, list the charter provision(s) proposed to be deleted or amended:

Amend section 6-1703; add new section to Article 6, Chapter 17.

3. If the proposal is based on a provision or provisions in the charter or law of another jurisdiction, name the jurisdiction and, if possible, attach a copy of the relevant provision(s).

4. If the proposal is based on any written materials you have, please attach a copy with a citation to its source.
5. Attach the text of the proposed charter amendment in Ramseyer format (see below).

Amend section 6-1703:

Section 6-1703. Powers, Duties and Functions --

The director of transportation services shall:

- (a) Plan, operate and maintain transportation, including transit and bikeway, systems to meet public transportation needs, in accordance with the general plan and development plans, and advise on the design and construction thereof.
- (b) Locate, select, install and maintain traffic control facilities and devices.
- (c) Provide educational programs to promote traffic safety.
- (d) Promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to standards established by law.
- (e) Encourage increased pedestrian, public transit, and bicycle traffic, and to reduce automobile traffic,

Add new section to Article 6, Chapter 17:

Section 6-170 . Pedestrian and Bicycle Friendly City –

It shall be a priority of the department of transportation services to make Honolulu a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city.